

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (WSDA)

Hands-on Pesticide Safety Training for Pesticide Handlers Workshop

The Hands-on Pesticide Safety Training for Pesticide Handlers has been such a success that the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is offering more training events during 2014. The training program, conducted in partnership with many growers and organizations and with the collaboration of the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I), provides high quality pesticide safety training for agricultural employees who handle pesticides.

What is the hands-on?

The hands-on delivers effective and relevant pesticide safety information using different training techniques that are effective in overcoming learning barriers such as low literacy levels.



WSDA trainer, Ofelio Borges (right), demonstrates how to do a respirator seal check during the Respiratory Protection Module.

Who is the target audience?

This hands-on workshop has been specially designed for unlicensed pesticide handler employees. These are employees who mix, load, apply or perform other pesticide handling activities, and who do not hold a WSDA pesticide applicator's license. Employees with a pesticide license can attend the training to supplement their existing knowledge and earn up to six pesticide credits.

Why hands-on Training?

"I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand." (Confucius)

Most adults learn better when information is presented interactively, using a variety of methods. In the hands-on training workshop, participants do not sit passively; they participate in hands-on exercises to learn how to handle pesticides in a safe manner. Other adult learning styles are addressed with activities such as group discussions, illustrations, demonstrations, case studies, story-telling, and others.

Comments from participants

"Have more trainings of this kind!" is what we hear most often from participants. Several growers who sent their employees have called us just to say, "Thanks for putting on such a great training program!"



WSDA Trainer, Flor Servin, leads an activity that teaches participants how to find and understand the meaning of signal words on pesticide labels.

How is the training conducted?

Class size: 24-50 participants

Length: 8 hours

Time: 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Language: Spanish (English upon request)

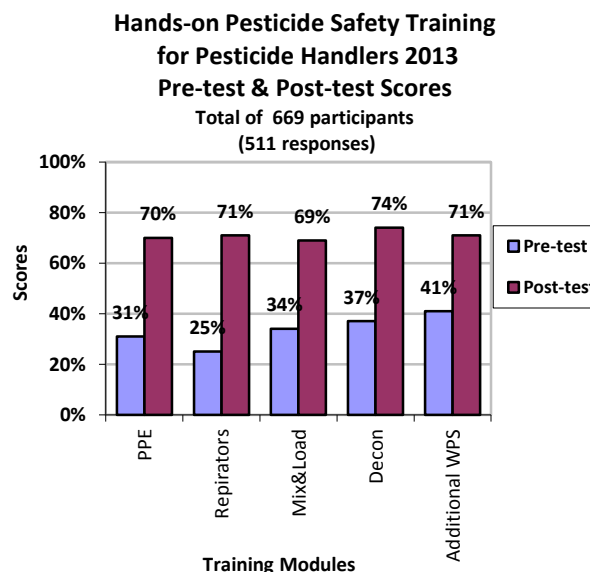
The group of 50 participants is divided into smaller groups that rotate through the following five modules: Each of the modules is taught by a pair of trainers consisting of both government and industry employees.

Training Modules:

1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Module
2. Respirators Module
3. Decontamination Module
4. Mixing & Loading Module
5. Other pesticide safety topics required by the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) such as pesticide drift, heat stress, etc.

Real Training Results

Last year, WSDA used the TurningPoint® Audience Response System in order to effectively evaluate the quality, relevance and effectiveness of the program. (Note: TurningPoint® Audience Response System is an advanced wireless system that allows participants to respond to questions using remote controls.) Participants completed a pre/post questionnaire that gauged their level of knowledge before and after receiving training. The assessment consistently shows a higher level of knowledge after the training. The chart below shows training evaluation results from participants who attended 16 Hands-on Pesticide Safety Training for Pesticide Handlers Workshops offered by WSDA in partnership with L&I, and community partners in Washington State in 2013.



Legal Requirements

The hands-on helps growers by delivering training that not only complies with but exceeds the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) training requirements for pesticide handlers in the proper and safe use of pesticides in agricultural establishments.

Training Documentation

Unlicensed pesticide handlers, who complete training, obtain a WPS Verification of Training Card issued by WSDA (Cards are not issued to participants arriving late or leaving before the end of training). Certified Applicators receive 6 pesticide credits.

Bring the Hands-on to your Farm

If you are interested in working with WSDA to sponsor a hands-on training event for your farm, community or association members, view our web site [sponsor](#) and [site requirements](#) fact sheets for information.

For more course information, please contact: Flor Servin, (509) 662-0590, fservin@agr.wa.gov or Ofelio Borges, (509) 249-6939, oborges@agr.wa.gov.

Registration

Pre-registration is required! Registration is through the sponsor **ONLY**. Do not try to register with WSDA! Fee is payable to the sponsor only and is normally \$50 per person. Participants need a warm jacket because some training exercises are conducted outdoors.

2014 Locations & Dates

7:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Pasco, WA Mar. 14, 2014
Registration: Janet Heath 509.782.8234
Sponsor: WA Assoc. of Wine Grape Growers

Okanogan, WA Mar. 21, 2014
Registration: Charlotte Randolph 509.662.6181
Sponsors: WGCH & Chelan Fruit Growers

Granger, WA Mar. 25, 2014
Registration: Nieves 509.854.1900
Or Linda Brown 509.575.6315
Sponsor: WA Growers League & Northwest Communities Education Center/Radio KDNA

Yakima, WA Mar. 28, 2014
Registration: Maria Rodriguez 509.453.5133
Sponsor: Center for Latino Farmers

Mount Vernon, WA April 11, 2014
Registration: Don McMoran 360.428.4270
Extension 225
Sponsor: Washington State University